UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1994/234
28 February 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 28 FEBRUARY 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GEORGIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of the statement by the Chairman of the Parliament, head of State of the Republic of Georgia, Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze dated 26 February 1994.

I would be grateful if this letter and its attachment are circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mr. Peter P. CHKHEIDZE
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement dated 26 February 1994 from the Chairman of the Parliament, head of State of Georgia

We have learned that the third round of negotiations in Geneva on the comprehensive settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia has ended unsuccessfully.

Although the combined efforts of the Georgian side, the United Nations and the Russian Federation resulted in a ray of hope that agreements would be reached regarding the return of the refugees and displaced persons, and the political status of Abkhazia within the Republic of Georgia, the Gudauta group once again adopted a hostile and non-conciliatory position, in fact disrupting the negotiations and further escalating the tension.

I consider it imperative to remind the world community that the Abkhaz separatists have thrice grossly violated agreements signed by them, hence, completely ignoring the most elementary norms of civilized behaviour. Despite such unforgivable actions, the Georgian side has spared no effort in utilizing every available means to achieve a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

The Georgian effort has been assisted by the United Nations, the Russian Federation, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), and the "Friends of Georgia" group. It is with profound gratitude that I commend their efforts in Geneva to make a peaceful resolution possible. It is a pity that the Gudauta group's response to these monumental efforts has been to initiate a new wave of genocide against Georgians in Abkhazia. The tragic consequences of this latest campaign of terror are evident, having resulted in hundreds of people killed and wounded, and 15,000 more people added to the 300,000 refugees who have been forced to flee from the land of their ancestors or face certain death.

Once again, the Abkhaz separatists ignored universally recognized norms in not allowing anyone from the group of United Nations observers, headed by General Hvidegaard, to travel to the Gali district for the purpose of making an accurate assessment of the developments there. In my opinion, these horrible events were inadequately responded to by international organizations and the world community. This impudence towards fundamental international norms must not remain unpunished if we are to build a harmonious, law-abiding world community.

Despite all of the afore-mentioned, the Georgian Government consented to participate in the third round of Geneva negotiations in order to utilize fully even the most remote chance for a peaceful resolution of this conflict.

Today it is abundantly clear that the Gudauta group's disruption of the Geneva negotiations was with the multiple intents of completing the eradication and/or extermination of the few remaining Georgians in Abkhazia, rendering the return of the refugees and displaced to their homes impossible, and breaking away from Georgia forever.

The tension has profoundly escalated. Taking full responsibility for my statements, I declare that, should the negotiating parties, the United Nations Security Council and the Russian Federation fail to find an immediate solution to this impasse, a spontaneous explosion resulting in the resumption of hostilities is inevitable. This will be followed by even greater bloodshed, the scale and cruelty of which will exceed any that our long-suffering land has yet endured.

For all of these reasons, we agree to the immediate continuation of the negotiations. I am personally prepared to visit the United Nations Security Council, and meet with the United Nations Secretary-General or his Special Envoy, the leadership of the Russian Federation and representatives of friendly States in order to avoid the catastrophic outcome which will assuredly follow the breakdown of the Geneva talks.

The dialogue which will take place in Washington and New York during my visit to the United States at the invitation of President Bill Clinton must constructively contribute to the comprehensive political settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia.